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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please include the following abstract on a separate page after the claims of the application. This abstract replaces any abstract filed with the application and was incorporated in corresponding International Application PCT/US00/17490 filed on June 23, 2000.

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a capillary electrophoresis-based method of screening complex materials for any unidentified affinity ligand that binds to a target of interest. The method subjects a plug of a mixture of the target and a complex material sample, and a separate plug of a known, tight-binding competitive ligand, to capillary electrophoresis under conditions optimized to allow mingling of the two plugs during the capillary electrophoresis run. Preferably, migration of the competitive ligand is tracked.